

DRAFT Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services
Minutes, September 15, 2010

Members Present: Catherine Abercrombie, Jennifer Carroll, Judy Dowd, Ruth Eren, Chera Gerstein, Jan Galloway, Ann Gionet, Jacqueline Kelleher, David Daniel Klipper, Sara Lourie, James Loomis, Sara Reed, Lois Rosenwald, Jonathan Ross, Margery Stahl, Larry Wood, Jennifer Ureta.

Members Absent: Nancy Bagatell, Kathy Marcione Nikki Richer, Stan Soby, Tricia Winter

Ex Officio Members: Kathy Reddington, Lori Conchado

Members of the Public: Michelle, a mom from Easton, CT with a son on the spectrum, joined the group.

Autism Waiver Update- Kathy Reddington prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Autism Waiver in response to concerns of how this will affect our pilot program individuals. Highlights and clarifications of this presentation and discussion are as follows:

- The development of the Autism Waiver is an initiative to maximize revenue by seeking federal reimbursement for individuals with autism who are currently receiving services. It also helps in protecting the program from possible budget cuts.
- The waiver will only expand the geographical area we serve. It will include children from DCF and adults from the DMHAS and our Pilot Program. It will not expand the number of individuals served.
- CT is the only state that allocates money for services and then seeks reimbursement for Medicaid. This waiver is more lenient/generous than what is offered in other states.
- The waiver is modeled after the DDS waiver offering 3 levels of services from moderate, medium to extensive. A Level of Need Tool/Assessment will be used to determine the level of services and which waiver a individual will be on. Most individuals fall into Waiver I. The waiver has a "Cost Neutrality" to limit the amount of services an individual can receive in the wavier, not to exceed the cost of a person in an institution.
- DDS will be the "operating" agency who oversees the administration of the program; provides services to consumers in our Pilot Program; provide services to children transferred from DCF
- DMHAS will be "service" agency who provides services to individuals;

- Dept. of Social Services is the state “Medicaid” agency who oversees the administration of all waivers and must approve our application before it goes to Medicaid.
- All individuals enrolled in the waiver need to be on Medicaid to receive services. Kathy and Judy will be discussing and clarify what will happen to Pilot Program individuals not on Medicaid.
- Once the waiver is approved, there will be a date for DDS to begin transferring DCF individuals over and work with DMHAS to provide services as well. DDS will also have to open up eligibility to others who meet the criteria and expand the services statewide. This will create a “wait list” for services. Kathy has submitted a request for positions which will be needed to support this initiative.

Review 2011 Meeting Dates – Lois suggested possible changes to the days the council meets. Lois will provide some alternate dates to Lori, who will utilize Doodle to check member’s availability.

Executive Committee’s August Meeting –

- The committee believes that we need to shift our focus towards advocacy, oversight and educating the public, which will help in our mission to gain housing, and services for our consumers.
- Membership –Lois and David Daniel would like to review membership and look at possible new members. All members will need to be on committees and make contributions.
- Committees - They would like to keep the Executive Committee and Media and Public Relations in place and create **new committees**:
- The committee suggested inviting Gubernatorial Candidates to forums to discuss our issues. We may have to schedule two separate dates to accommodate schedules.
 1. Monitoring Committee – to concentrate on Pilot Program consumers to make sure adults are not forgotten as the mission expands. (Kathy asked for clarification on what specifically they will be looking for and offered to provide any information requested).
 2. Advocacy Committee – to be chaired by Jacui and Sara Reed to coordinate e-mails, share information and encourage participation. It was also suggested that we create Self Advocates to educate the public.

- The committee suggested inviting Gubernatorial Candidates to forums to discuss our issues. We may have to schedule two separate dates to accommodate schedules.
- Jim Loomis questioned the change in focus of the council; Larry Wood announced his resignation from the council due to its change in mission and Ann Gionet expressed her concern regarding the change in the role of the council and her participation.
- There were no votes for any of the proposed suggestions.

Other:

- Maggie Casciato's letter of resignation was read and shared with members.
- Commissioner O'Meara response to the council's request for RAP housing certificates was read and shared with members. (Letter is attached) Lois, David Daniel and Chera asked Kathy to schedule a meeting with Commissioner O'Meara to further discuss this issue.
- Lois would like to invite Patricia Anderson from the Dept. of Education to join the council to assist in transitioning students.
- Ann Gionet thanked the group for its support of the HRSA Grant, which was denied.

Attachments: PowerPoint Handouts for Autism Waiver, Commissioner O'Meara Letter

Next Meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2010